



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

17 March 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT : Vietnam Intelligence Exchanges

1. The Director has asked me to follow up on that portion of his 17 March conversation with you that dealt with Vietnam intelligence exchanges. As you are aware, the fall out from the [] affair (covered in the Director's 7 March memorandum to you) has produced a result we believe will yield a net improvement in the overall US intelligence effort on Vietnam. Our Vietnam Station Chief, Mr. Shackley, reviewed the bidding on this whole matter in a cordial, frank and private conversation with General Abrams on 11 March. Together they worked out a new set of local (Saigon) ground rules under which MACV will review with our Station (and, hence, the Agency) all intelligence sources, reports or evaluations likely to be utilized as inputs to policy recommendations. This procedure will thus provide General Abrams with the support and resources of the entire intelligence community to assist him and, simultaneously, will permit cross-fertilization and discussions of differing judgments to be taken up early on at the working level rather than at the end of the process at the NSC level. All parties to their design believe the new procedures will work to the benefit of the US Government as a whole and all of its several components involved in these Vietnam matters.

2. In line with the new procedure, on Saturday (15 March), [] sent Mr. Shackley two memoranda requesting the Station's (and Agency's) comment thereon. We put together a small (and secure) task force which worked steadily through Saturday afternoon and evening to prepare the detailed comments [] had requested. These were cabled to Saigon in the early hours of Sunday morning (16 March) so [] could have his answer one business day after he had levied his request.

Copy No. 4

SECRET

3. Copies of the four cables involved in the exchange outlined above are attached hereto for your information: SAIGON [] is a draft message from General Abrams to General Wheeler commented on in our HEADQUARTERS 008; SAIGON [] is MACV's original memorandum on Cambodia, commented on in our [] Also attached are two maps (one for each cable pair) to aid you in reading the exchanges.

4. Please understand that our two outgoing messages were written to Mr. Shackley and set up as guidance for him in preparing a formal response to MACV J-2. Neither (particularly []) was drafted for direct, unedited passage to our military colleagues. Please bear this in mind as you read our responses. In light of the delicacy of this whole matter, plus the sensitivity of our internal Agency correspondence, the Director requests that you hold this exchange very tightly and that you return the four attached cable copies when you no longer need them.

[]
George A. Carver, Jr.

Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs



SECRET

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/10/28 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000600030064-9

Approved For Release 2004/10/28 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000600030064-9